

Message Text

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EB-08 HA-05 CA-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 ACDA-12 EA-10
NEA-10 /112 W
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R 121357Z JUL 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7142
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 06299

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CVIS, SHUM, HU, AU
SUBJECT: VISIT OF HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO AUSTRIA

1. SUMMARY. HIGHLIGHT OF HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT WAS SIGNING OF AGREEMENT ELIMINATING VISA REQUIREMENT AS OF JANUARY 1, 1979. PUJA PRESSED AUSTRIANS TO TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE "LARGE" AUSTRIAN TRADE SURPLUS WITH HUNGARY AND DID SOME TOUGH TALKING AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS A LA WEST, BRZEZINSKI AS THREAT TO DETENTE, AND AGAINST WESTERN USE OF "CHINESE CARD" VIS-A-VIS "SOCIALIST CAMP." END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THREE-DAY (JULY 3-5, 1978) OFFICIAL VISIT TO
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AUSTRIA, HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRIGYES PUJA MET WITH AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR, CALLED ON AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT, LECTURED BEFORE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION ON HUNGARIAN FOREIGN POLICY, SIGNED VISA AGREEMENT AND HOSTED PRESS CONFERENCE. KNOWLEDGEABLE AUSTRIAN MFA SOURCE WHO TOOK PART IN TALKS DESCRIBED THEM AS SOMEWHAT SOMBER, WITH HUNGARIANS TAKING WHAT SEEMED TO AUSTRIANS AS SURPRIS-

INGLY TOUGH STANCE ON NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. SAME AUSTRIAN SOURCE PROVIDED FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT.

3. ABOLITION OF VISAS: FROM AUSTRIAN VIEWPOINT, MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT OF VISIT WAS SIGNATURE OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT ABOLISHING VISA REQUIREMENT, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1979. AUSTRIANS HAVE REPEATEDLY RAISED SUBJECT IN RECENT YEARS AND WERE OBVIOUSLY VERY PLEASED THAT HUNGARIANS HAD FINALLY SIGNED SUCH AGREEMENT. AS SWEETENER, AUSTRIANS WILL PROVIDE HUNGARY WITH EQUIVALENT OF 300 MILLION U.S. DOLLAR LINE OF CREDIT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HUNGARIAN TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE (E.G., HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, HOLIDAY VILLAGES BUT ALSO SANITORIA). WHILE VISA REQUIREMENT IS ABOLISHED, AUSTRIAN VISITORS WILL NEVERTHELESS BE REQUIRED TO FILL OUT REGISTRATION FORM AT HUNGARIAN BORDER AND HUNGARIANS WILL STILL NEED SOME SORT OF HUNGARIAN EXIT DOCUMENT TO TRAVEL TO AUSTRIA.

4. BILATERAL ISSUES:

A. TRADE: PUJA MADE FORCEFUL PRESENTATION FOR AUSTRIAN ACTION TO REDUCE "LARGE" TRADE BALANCE IN AUSTRIAN FAVOR (EQUIVALENT IN 1977 OF OVER 125 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS). HE SPECIFICALLY CITED AS DESIRABLE LOWERING OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS AND ELIMINATION OF SOME OF EXCLU-
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SIONS AGAINST HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. MFA SOURCE SAID THAT GOA DOES NOT ANTICIPATE MAKING ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN TRADING PRACTICES TO ACCOMMODATE HUNGARIANS.

B. COOPERATION IN THIRD COUNTRIES: HUNGARIANS RAISED QUESTION OF COOPERATION IN THIRD MARKETS, WHICH IN VIEW OF AUSTRIANS HAS BEEN NEGLIGIBLE IN PAST AND IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE IN FUTURE.

C. BORDER CROSSING POINTS: AUSTRIANS RAISED POSSIBILITY OF OPENING ADDITIONAL BORDER CROSSING POINTS, TO WHICH HUNGARIANS RESPONDED WITH PROMISE TO STUDY.

D. HUMAN RIGHTS: HUMAN RIGHTS WERE NOT RAISED DIRECTLY BY EITHER SIDE, SINCE, ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN MFA SOURCE, NO AUSTRIAN CASES ARE PENDING.

5. MULTILATERAL ISSUES:

A. DETENTE: PUJA STRONGLY EMPHASIZED NEED TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE DETENTE, PARTICULARLY URGING GREATER ACTION ON DISARMAMENT. AT SAME TIME PUJA DENOUNCED PRESI-

DENTIAL ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI BY NAME AS MAN WHO IS TRYING TO PROMOTE PROGRAM TO UNDERMINE SOCIALIST CAMP AND TO COUNTER MOVEMENT TOWARD DETENTE. IN DISCUSSING DETENTE PUJA MADE SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN WHAT HE DESCRIBED IN NEGATIVE TERMS AS "HUMANITARIAN DETENTE" (PRESUMABLY INVOLVING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS) AND DETENTE AS UNDERSTOOD BY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. REGARDING LATTER, SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WILL NOT ALLOW INTERFERENCE IN THEIR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS UNDER

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GUISE OF PROMOTION OF "SO-CALLED HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES." IN HIS PUBLIC LECTURE PUJA UNDERLINED SAME POINT OF UNACCEPTABILITY OF "HUMANITARIAN DETENTE" AS BASIS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO SYSTEMS.

B. NEAR EAST: ACCORDING TO PUJA, SADAT INITIATIVE WILL FAIL, SITUATION IN NEAR EAST IS MORE UNSTABLE THAN EVER, UNITY OF ARAB COUNTRIES HAS BEEN SHAKEN AND EGYPT, BY REPUDIATING HELP OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HAS ONLY DAMAGED ITSELF. PUJA CONCLUDED WITH SUGGESTION THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE COMPLICATED UNDERTAKING SINCE

SADAT WOULD HAVE TO ENGAGE IN BIT OF SELF-CRITICISM.

C. WEST AND "CHINESE CARD": PUJA SAID AIM OF PRC IS TO
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GENERATE WORLD WAR BETWEEN TWO SUPERPOWERS BY EXACERBATING
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACTS. EFFORT TO
ENCIRCLE SOVIET UNION COULD BE TO DISADVANTAGE OF WEST,
AND WESTERN MILITARY COOPERATION WITH PRC IS NOT WISE MOVE.
PUJA OPINED THAT CHINA'S BASIC THRUST IS TO SOUTH WHERE IT
COULD CONCEIVABLY IMPACT ON WESTERN INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA. PUJA TERMED PRC MAIN DISRUPTIVE FACTOR IN EFFORT TO
PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL DETENTE.

6. FUTURE BILATERAL PLANS: CHANCELLOR KREISKY WILL MAKE
UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO HUNGARY IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR AND
HUNGARIANS HAVE ASKED FOR RENEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENTS ON
TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND ON PROMOTION OF
TOURISM.

7. COMMENT: AUSTRIANS WERE SURPRISED AT TOUGHNESS OF PUJA'S
COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE. THIS WAS FIRST TIME, AS
FAR AS MFA SOURCE COULD RECALL, THAT ANY SENIOR EE GOVERN-
MENT LEADER HAD RAISED QUESTION OF PRC WITH THEM AND HAD
DENOUNCED BY NAME SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL AS "IMPEDIMENT TO
DETENTE." SOURCE SAID MFA CONCLUSION WAS THAT PUJA WAS
CLEARLY SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF USSR AND THAT HE FELT HE
COULD USE SUCH TOUGH-TALKING WITH AUSTRIANS IN VIEW OF FACT
THAT AUSTRIA'S RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY ARE BEST OF ANY
COMMUNIST COUNTRY. WOLF

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